tional market like zari work, shawls, bamboo crafts, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) The target set for export of handicrafts, sector during 1997-98 and achievements made has been to the tune of Rs. 6500 crores and Rs. 6457.69 crores (Provisional) respectively.

(b) and (c) The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts has estimated that the exports of handicrafts from Southern and Eastern regions account for about 8 per cent of the total exports of handicrafts.

To promote exports from all Regions of the country, the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Government of India, has set up six Regional Offices at New Delhi, Lucknow, Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta and Guwahati and to provide design inputs to the artisans and exporters of handicrafts, five Regional Design and Technical Development Centres are functioning at Calcutta, Guwahati, Bangalore, Bhopal and New Delhi. Besides, 47 Handicrafts and Marketing Service Extension Centres are functioning in various parts of the country to render marketing related assistance.

(d) For promotion of various crafts, including lesser known crafts such as zari work, shawls, bomboo crafts etc., in the international market steps taken from time to time include: sponsoring of sales-cum-study teams abroad; participation in international fairs/festivals; overseas publicity; organising the buyer-sellers meets; conduct of workshops and seminars and organising the Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair annually.

Circumvening Quota System by Exporters

4719. SHRI ANANTRAY DEV-: SHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether many garment exporters are circumvening the qota system by exporting goods to a third country and then role belling them for export to other countries;

(b) the number of such cases which have come to the notice of Government; and

(c) what action has been taken against such firms?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) No complaints have been received regarding any garment exporters circumvening the quota system by exporting goods to a third country and then selling them for export to other countries.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Non-Mulberry Silk

4720. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise list of non-mulberry silk being identified in the country, their present day utility, export demand and future potentialities;

(b) whether some study is being proposed to be carried out to identify more of such unexplored species in the North-Eastern Region;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what are the future plans to explore and develop this sector?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) The three commercially known varieties of non-mulberry silks produced by different states is given below:—

1. Tasar

(i) Tropical Tasar:	Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh & Rajasthan.
(ii) Oak Tasar:	Manipur, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Arunachal

	Pradesh, Mizoram, Assam and Nagaland.
2. Eri:	Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Bihar, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Orissa and Mizoram.
3. Muga:	Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur & Mizoram.

Tasar, Muga and Eri silk are used for manufacturing fabrics. Eri silk is also used to make shawls. The limited muga production mainly feeds the domestic demand with export of negligible quantity. There is a good export demand for tasar silk goods. Fabrics made from eri yarn blended with mulberry or tasar yarn also has good export demand.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Do not arise.

(d) In order to supplement efforts of the State Sericulture Department, the Central Silk Board (CSB) is implementing a large number of schemes/projects/programmes for promoting development of all the 4 types of silk. These includes schemes for extension of R & D training, infrastructure extension support to the sector through a net work of CSB units and implementation of certain development/investments/financial assistance schemes for encouraging adoption of modern sericulture practices for production of quality silk. Besides CSB also take up specific sericulture projects in association/collaboration with the States. As far as North Eastern states are concerned some of the specific projects taken up by CSB are as follows:—

(i) North Eastern Action Plan covering all States of the North Eastern region is presently under implementation which provides assistance towards increases in acrege by plantation, training to farmers, reelers, setting up of cocoon training facilities and assistance for setting up of reeling units, etc. The project is being continued during the IXth Plan period.

(ii) Assistance is extended to the agencies for marketing various cocoons.

(iii) Project development and domestic marketing for Eri and Muga.

(iv) Muga raw-material sale depot was set up at Guwahati.

(v) Besides, to boost the production of silk in the country, 34 Catalytic Development Schemes have been sanctioned for implementation by the Government through Central Silk Board.

(vi) An Integrated Muga and Eri Development Project has been prepared by the Central Silk Board for North Eastern States including Assam, for implementation during IXth Plan period at a cost of Rs. 95.00 crores.

Production of cotton textile

4721. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:
SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that production of cotton textiles in the country has been declining for the ten years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/contemplated to restore the earlier production level?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) No, Sir. The production of cotton textiles, i.e. cotton yarn and cotton cloth, has progressively increased during the period 1988-89 to 1997-98. The annual growth rate in the production of cotton yarn and cotton cloth during this period has been 6.2% and 4.5%, respectively.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.